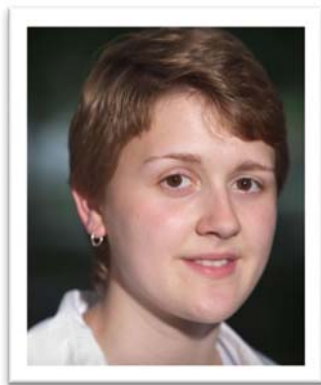


FIVE SMITHIES AWARDED NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS



Emily Flynn, '14, will start her biomedical informatics graduate program at Stanford University this fall knowing that her NSF Graduate Fellowship (NSFGF) will provide three years of stipend, allowances for tuition and fees, and opportunities for international research and professional development. "I am really excited that it will give me the flexibility to pursue the research I am most interested in, and I do not have to worry about finding funding," Emily said. A biochemistry and computer science double major, with a biomathematics concentration as well, Emily attributes much of her success in the NSFGF competition to support received during her internship at Cold Spring Harbor Labs and cites as well support from Smith mentors Ileana Steinu, Judy Franklin, and Adam Hall. In 2013, Emily was awarded a highly competitive Goldwater Scholarship.

The NSFGF Program is designed to help "ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science and engineering in the United States and reinforces its diversity." The [Program's website](#) says

"The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions. The NSF welcomes applications from all qualified students and strongly encourages under-represented populations, including women, under-represented racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities, to apply for this fellowship."

In 2014, NSF selected 2,000 NSFGF award recipients from an applicant pool of 14,000.

Three NSFGF recipients completed their undergraduate degrees at Smith.

After two years of work as a research associate at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, **Ella Hartenian**, '11, will begin graduate work this fall in molecular and cell biology at Berkeley with her full five years of graduate study funded by the NSFGF (3 years) and a Berkeley Fellowship (2 years). "Writing the [research] grant portion of the NSF application was a time to sit down and dream big about the questions I personally find the most stimulating. To receive positive feedback on the aspect of science I find most challenging - defining what the question is you want to answer - was very encouraging." At Smith, Ella's concentration was environmental biology and sustainable development. Smith mentors include Rob Dorit, Nick Horton (now Amherst College), and Bob Linck.



Onawa LaBelle, '12 (Ada Comstock Program), is a first-year graduate student in psychology at the University of Michigan. Onawa, too, cites "the freedom [the NSFGF] gives me to pursue my research full-time while in graduate school" and how exciting is "to know that the NSF believes my research is both interesting and valuable enough to offer their support." She cites Benita Jackson as an important mentor who provided advice and support during the graduate school application process and for the NSFGF application. Other Smith mentors introduced her to contacts that led to formative internships at Harvard (summer internship with Dr. Rosalind Wright) and at UMass (NIH post-baccalaureate internship with Dr. Paula Pietromonaco).



Catriona (“Catie”) Wilson Blunt, '12, is a first-year graduate student in the chemistry PhD program at Caltech. Catie was a chemistry honors student at Smith who completed an honors thesis under the supervision of Kevin Shea. Other Smith mentors include Dave Gorin and Betsy Jamieson.



Katherine (“Kate”) Meyer, a 2009 Carleton College graduate, completed Smith’s post-baccalaureate program in mathematics in 2012. She is a first-year graduate student in the mathematics PhD program at the University of Minnesota. Her research interests lie in environmental applications of math related to climate, resilience, and control theory. Kate says, “I got my first tastes of mathematical research ... at Smith, and I'm grateful to my research mentors, Professors Paul Baginski, Drew Guswa, and Jim Henle, for supporting me both during the program and during my application to NSF with letters of recommendation. I'm immensely grateful for the post-bac program at Smith in general. I can't imagine making this transition to graduate school without it.”